Kids can become 'rebels' with no social media

PARENTS who prevent their children from using the social media can to a large extent provoke them to rebel.

They can also be accused of failing to respect the "personal rights" of the youngsters, said psychologist Assoc Prof Dr Mariani Mohd Nor.

She added that young people these days were concerned about their "personal space" and would be utterly unhappy if it was violated.

While parents were concerned about the characters their children met on social media sites, their meddling could only aggravate matters, she shared.

Dr Mariani who is with Universiti Malaya's Educational Psychology and Counselling Department said that parents should take it easy and "not take drastic action like preventing their children from surfing the Internet or checking on their mobile phones. Doing so, would only mean that the adults had little or no trust in them.

"Children who are not permitted to do so, will have a tendency to rebel and resort to ways of surfing the Internet in cyber cafes," she added.

Dr Mariani said that parents should be more open with their children as it would help them earn their trust and become friends.

"What is important is for parents to observe any behavioural change especially in adolescents and puberty change especially in girls when they undergo hormonal change," she said.

Meanwhile, independent speaker Datuk Hassan Mahmud Al Hafiz said children should be given religious guidance to prevent them from getting involved in negative activities.

The former imam of the National Mosque said girls should be wary of individuals on social networking sites, especially the opposite sex. They should be wise in evaluating the people they meet on social media.

He added that parents should know the extent of their children's involvement in social
media sites and not bar them from using it, as it was all part of technological advancement. — Bernama